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January 5, 1998

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Mr. Michael McAteer, WAM (5HSRL-6J)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5  
77 West Jackson Boulevard  
Chicago, IL 60604-3590

Dear Mr. McAteer:

Subject: Monthly Progress Report No. 1  
CH2M HILL/E&E Oversight of Remedial Action (RA) Activities  
Enviro-Chem Superfund (ECC) Site, Zionsville, Indiana  
WA No. 008-ROBF-0530, Contract No. 68-W6-0025

Enclosed is a copy of Progress Report No. 1 for December 17, 1997 to January 31, 1998 reporting period, and the corresponding photographic log.

Please call me at (513) 762-7605, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

CH2M HILL

Tim Harrison  
Site Manager

CIN/PR01

Enclosure

c: Stephen Nathan/PO/USEPA; 5HSM-5J (w/o enclosure)  
Peggy Hendrixson/CO/USEPA; 5MCC-10J (w/o enclosure)  
Ike Johnson/PM/MKE  
Al Erickson/RTL/MKE  
Gail Gill/AA/MKE

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1/31/98

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# ECC RA Oversight Progress Report No. 1 (12/17/97 to 1/31/98)

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## CH2M HILL Remedial Action (RA) Oversight Observation

This is the first RA oversight progress report submitted by CH2M HILL for RA activities done at the Enviro-Chem (ECC) Superfund Site in Zionsville, Indiana. This progress report covers the period from December 17, 1997 to January 31, 1998.

Versar Inc., the ECC Trust's (Trust) prime remediation contractor, and several subcontractors performed field activities during the reporting period. Remediation activities began in early December 1997 when Versar mobilized to the site. The first few weeks of activities were for general setup of site construction trailers, phone and electric utilities, permits, etc. Remedial construction activities started in mid-December 1997.

Tim Harrison/CH2M HILL performed field oversight on December 17, 1997 and January 6, 1998. Field summary notes were e-mailed to U.S. EPA for each of these days. Starting January 12, 1998, Danny Lynch/Ecology and Environment, Inc. (CH2M HILL subcontractor) began full-time oversight at the ECC site at the request of U.S. EPA as major remediation activities began.

## Progress Made by Trust's Contractor This Reporting Period

The line items below list the status of a particular remediation task identified in the Trust's Project Schedule dated December 19, 1997.

- 1-31. Pre-Design Activities — These line items were all completed prior to this reporting period with the exception of items 20, 29, and 30 as is discussed below.
  - 20. RCRA Standards Submittal (by Trustees) — Trust submitted proposed RCRA Clean Closure standards to U.S. EPA in mid-January. Proposed standards are under review by U.S. EPA and IDEM.
  - 29. Award Subcontracts — Several subcontracts were awarded during the reporting period (e.g., tank and building erection, earthmoving, electrical), but other subcontracts such as mechanical have not been awarded.
  - 30. Baseline Air Monitoring — The meteorological station was constructed the week of December 8. Baseline air sampling was completed the week of January 5.
- 31-39. Pre-Mobilization Activities — All of these activities were completed during the reporting period. These items included obtaining building permits, installing trailers (office and decon), phone utilities, and power service (to trailers and process building). Potable and gray water tanks were brought on site. Plumbing of the decon tanks is in progress.

- 40-42. Completed setup construction facilities and site surveys.
43. Construct Perimeter Roads—Item is in progress, but behind schedule. Roads have been “roughed in” but are not final based on specifications. This is not a critical path issue and has been delayed while Trust address critical path issues.
44. Clean and Repair Erosion Ditches—Item has not been initiated during reporting period and is behind schedule. This is not a critical path issue and has been delayed while Trust address critical path issues.
45. Install Culvert System—Item has not been initiated during reporting period, and is behind schedule. This is not a critical path issue and has been delayed while Trust addresses critical path issues.
- 46-51. South Concrete Pad Area - These items are in progress, but have not been completed and are a few weeks behind schedule. These activities, which include test borings, grouting ECC sump, and determination of safe excavation depth, are critical path items and are discussed in more detail in the Problem Areas section below. The contractor did conduct soil gas testing along the west, south and east perimeters of the concrete pad using a geoprobe.
- 52-59. Treatment Systems - These items are all related to erection of the treatment process building which has been completed.
60. Erect Four Tanks with Liners - The contractor completed assembly of the four tank (T1, T2, T3 and T4) outer metal shells. Liner installation began in tank T1, but has not been initiated on other tanks at the end of the reporting period. A specifications non-compliance issue regarding the tank liners is discussed below in the Problems Section. This is a critical path item and is about 2 weeks behind schedule.

### Problems Resolved by the ECC Trust's Contractor

The water tank liners were kept warm to maintain flexibility prior to installation. A temporary wall was constructed in the process building and temporary propane heaters were used to maintain an elevated temperature.

### Problem Areas Remaining

1. A conflict was noted between the specification for the fabrication of the tank liners and the tank liners that were delivered to the site. The specification states that the liners were to be factory fabricated in one piece. The liners were not in one piece and required field welding of the liner bottom to the liner sidewall. Versar and the Trust are in the process of generating acceptable field fabrication specifications and QA/QC procedures that will prevent the tank liner subcontractor from having to shop weld the liner bottoms to the sidewalls. Shop welding the liners would be expected to significantly delay the project schedule.
2. The schedule for the investigation of the “southern concrete pad area” has been delayed due to water handling issues for standing water at the southern end of the concrete pad. Several inches of water exist on the pond, apparently due to runoff from rain events. The water must be removed so the Trust can complete soil borings in this area.

As part of the effort to determine how to dispose of the water, the Trust sampled the water and had it analyzed for contaminants of concern. The Trust states the water showed "borderline" contamination (compared to IDEM discharge limits) and therefore could not be directly discharged to Finley Creek without treatment. Since no water treatment systems are in place as of yet, the Trust decided to store the water in three temporary frac tanks (20,000 gallons each) until treatment is in place. After the frac tanks were filled, the Trust discovered that additional water still remains that must be removed. There is no more room onsite for additional frac tanks.

The Trust has decided they will pump the water in the frac tanks. The water remaining on the concrete pad will be pumped to one or more of the four new wastewater storage tanks (150,000 gallons each) being built until the treatment system is operational. The tanks' construction has been delayed as noted in item 1 above.

These water handling issues have delayed the soil boring progress in the southern concrete pad area by about 2 to 3 weeks as of this reporting period. As a result, the project critical path items including the geotechnical report (which will specify dewatering requirements and where sheet piling is needed), southern pad area sheet piling installation, site dewatering, and soil excavation will also be delayed. The concern is that these delays will push soil excavation into April when higher amounts of precipitation are common. This potential precipitation would generate additional water handling issues and result in poor site conditions that could further delay the schedule. The Trust is currently evaluating the issue and its impact on the project schedule. A revised schedule is expected to be submitted by the Trust to U.S. EPA next reporting period.

3. Versar cannot locate the 20-foot x 20-foot x 12-foot "ECC sump" under the concrete pad that was identified during remedial investigations. The Trust is concerned that the sump is hydraulically connected to artesian source of water that will continue to produce water during dewatering and excavation activities. As a result, they intend to grout the sump. The Trust expect to continue geotechnical investigations to exactly locate the sump during the next reporting period. The inability to locate the sump is impacting the project schedule and may be a source of water on the southern concrete pad.
4. The ECC Trust has not come to an agreement with the Bankert family regarding the use of the "borrow area" soils to use as backfill material for the southern concrete pad area excavation. The Trust has requested that Versar investigate alternative sources of backfill materials if negotiations with the Bankerts over the borrow area material prove unsuccessful.

### Trust's Activities Planned

The following activities are expected to begin, or be completed, during the next reporting period based on Versar's current project schedule. The line items below list the status of a particular remediation task identified in the Trust's Project Schedule dated December 19, 1997.

20. RCRA Standards Submittal (by Trustees)—Come to agreement with U.S. EPA and IDEM on appropriate RCRA Clean Closure Criteria to be applied to excavation of the southern concrete pad area.
42. Set Up Construction Facilities— Complete the plumbing of the office trailers and decon trailer.
43. Construct Perimeter Roads— Complete construction of the interior site access road.
44. Clean and Repair Erosion Ditches— Initiate and complete construction of site erosion ditches per the specifications.
45. Install Culvert System— Initiate and complete construction of the site culvert system.
- 46-51. South Concrete Pad Area— Complete the concrete pad area geotechnical investigation and results report. Versar also expects to locate and grout the "ECC sump."
60. Erect Four Tanks with Liners— Complete assembly of tanks of liners and piping for wastewater tanks T1, T2, T3 and T4, including hydrostatic leak testing of tanks. Versar also expects to transfer stored water from the temporary frac tanks to the permanent site tanks for treatment (not a line item on schedule).
- 61-64. Process Building Equipment— Continue setting SVE and wastewater treatment process equipment and ancillary plumbing and wiring of the process building. Functional testing of equipment is also expected.
- 73-86. North Treatment Area Phase I (Existing Soil)— Begin and complete installation of the north treatment area (existing soil) SVE system. This includes clearing area, crushing concrete building slabs, excavate SVE trenches, add stone aggregate to trenches, laying SVE piping in trenches, backfill trenches, installing impermeable liner, and air monitoring.
- 87-94. South Concrete Pad Area— Begin and complete preparing for excavation of southern concrete pad area including clearing area, installing dewatering well points, demolishing and crushing concrete pad, excavating and stockpiling subbase.
93. Install East Zone Sheet Pile Cutoff Wall— Begin installation of southern concrete pad area sheet pile along east wall.

Other line items shown on the contractors schedule are expected to take place after the next reporting period and are therefore not included in this report.

## ECC Trust's Schedule Status

Based on the schedule dated December 19, 1997, it appears that progress is about 2 to 3 weeks behind schedule at the end of the reporting period. The Trust's contractor has acknowledged schedule days and expects to submit a revised schedule to U.S. EPA early in the next reporting period.